

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 179432

14

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02 SSM-03

OPR-02 SY-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 /094 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:EOJONES

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

SSM - MR. MC ANDREW

NEA/ARP - MR. DICKMAN

AF/P - MR. POPE

NEA - MS. GRIFFIN

----- 081356

O 202301Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 179432

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USMISSION NATO  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
USMISSION SINAI  
CINCEUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 179432

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL, CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JULY 20

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS  
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR JULY 20,  
1976:

Q. BOB, WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE EVACUATION FROM  
BEIRUT? HAS ANOTHER DATE BEEN SET? AND WHAT CAUSED THE  
PROBLEM?

A. (MR. FUNSETH) NO DATE HAS BEEN SET. AND THE PROBLEM  
WAS THAT WE WERE ADVISED THAT THE LAND ROUTE TO DAMASCUS  
THAT WAS GOING TO BE USED WAS NOT SECURE.

Q. WELL THE GENERAL IMPRESSION OVER THE WEEKEND, AT LEAST,  
WAS THAT SOME OF THE ANXIETY ABOUT AN -- ABOUT IMMINENT  
STREET FIGHTING IN WEST BEIRUT, HAD BEEN OVERSTATED -- THAT  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 179432

THINGS WEREN'T REALLY THAT BAD. THE POSTPONEMENT SUGGESTS  
THE OPPOSITE. WHAT IS THE SITUATION? IS IT MORE DIFFICULT,  
OR IS IT LESS DIFFICULT?

A. THE PROBLEM OF SECURITY WAS NOT NECESSARILY IN WEST  
BEIRUT, BUT ENROUTE BETWEEN BEIRUT AND DAMASCUS.

THE DECISION TO SUGGEST, OR TO URGE AMERICAN CITIZENS TO

LEAVE WAS, AS WE STATED AT THE TIME: THE GENERALLY  
DETERIORATING LIVING CONDITIONS IN LEBANON, AS WELL AS  
THE UNCERTAIN SECURITY SITUATION, WHICH HAS NOT IMPROVED.

Q. WELL, BOB, WHO ADVISED US THAT THE LAND ROUTE IS NOT  
SECURED? DID THE PALESTINIANS ADVISE US OF THAT?

A. WE ARE IN TOUCH WITH A NUMBER OF PEOPLE CONCERNING  
THE SECURITY OF THE ROUTE FROM LEBANON, ALL THE WAY TO  
DAMASCUS.

Q. DOES THIS MEAN THE UNITED STATES IS NOW CONSIDERING  
SEA EVACUATION?

A. WE ARE STILL PLANNING A LAND TYPE CONVOY, BUT WOULD  
NOT EXCLUDE THE OTHER OPTIONS WHICH WE ACKNOWLEDGED WHEN  
WE MADE OUR FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT, THAT THERE WERE THREE  
POSSIBILITIES: LAND, AIR AND SEA.

SO THOSE TWO OTHERS REMAIN OPTIONS, BUT THE PRESENT PLAN  
IS FOR ANOTHER LAND CONVOY.

Q. ARE THERE ANY OTHER CHANGES IN THE PLAN TO THIN DOWN  
THE EMBASSY --

A. NO.

Q. THERE ARE NO SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT THAT?

A. NO.

Q. BOB, THERE WAS A REPORT OVER THE WEEKEND, I THINK, OR  
YESTERDAY, THAT A SOVIET AIRCRAFT CARRIER CAPABLE OF  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 STATE 179432

CARRYING JUNK JET AIRCRAFT WENT FROM THE BLACK SEA INTO  
THE MEDITERRANEAN; AND THERE WAS A SUGGESTION IN ONE PAPER  
THAT THIS WAS DONE IN SPITE OF U.S. PROTEST.

WAS THERE ANY U.S. PROTEST ABOUT THIS? OR INQUIRY?

A. NO, THERE WAS NO U.S. PROTEST ON THAT.

Q. HOW DOES THE UNITED STATES FEEL ABOUT THE ENTRY OF  
KIEV INTO THE MEDITERRANEAN? DOES IT HAVE JUNK JET  
CAPACITY?

A. WE KNOW THAT IT CARRIES HELICOPTERS.

THE ISSUE REALLY IS: WAS IT A VIOLATION OF THE MONTREUX

CONVENTION, I THINK. AND WE ARE NOT A SIGNATOR TO THE  
MONTREUX CONVENTION. SO WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO  
COMMENT ON THE BASIS OF THE DECISION.

MOREOVER, ON BACKGROUND I THINK WE HAVE TO UNDERSTAND  
THAT THAT CONVENTION WAS SIGNED FORTY YEARS AGO WHEN  
AIRCRAFT CARRIERS WERE NOT A MATTER OF CONCERN; AND THE  
TEXT IN THAT CONVENTION IS AMBIGUOUS ON THIS QUESTION.  
END BACKGROUND

Q. DID THE UNITED STATES DISCUSS THIS -- OR DID TURKEY  
DISCUSS THIS WITH THE UNITED STATES BEFORE GRANTING  
PERMISSION?

A. NO, NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE. KISSINGER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS CONFERENCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 JUL 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE179432  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** EOJONES  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760279-0707  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760739/aaaabiis.tel  
**Line Count:** 184  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <22 APR 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <19 AUG 2004 by KelleyW0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JULY 20 FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SOPN, US  
**To:** AMMAN MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006